Situation Report – Cap Repair
San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site
Channelview, Harris County, Texas

Summary of Progress:

December 10, 2015: The EPA Dive Team completed an underwater inspection of the armor cap to assess how it has fared during the four years since construction. The divers inspected the armor cap visually and by side scan dual frequency sonar. In the northwest part of the cap near the shoreline a damaged area was identified that was at least 17-feet across.

December 23, 2015: following EPA approval of the Potentially Responsible Party's (PRP) delineation and sampling plan, the PRPs completed work to mark out the length and width of the damaged area, as well as collect sediment samples in and around the damaged area. **Picture #1** shows the damaged location, which was an irregularly shaped area approximately 20-feet by 25-feet. The surface of the damaged area was not depressed relative to the surrounding areas, and the armor material was still there, but there were gaps in the armor material, and instead of one continuous layer of armor rock, it consisted of mixed/alternating rock and sediment layers. The damaged area was in shallow water, approximately 8-inches to 18-inches deep.

A total of 7 shallow (0-6 inches) sediment samples were collected within (3 samples) and outside (4 samples) of the damaged area. The samples within the damaged area contained rocks/aggregate as well as sediment and some shells – see **Picture #2**. The samples are being analyzed for dioxin /furan congeners. In addition, 3 split sample were collected by EPA's contractor in and outside of the damaged area for comparison to the PRPs sample results.

Oversight of the work was provided by EPA staff and contractor EA. Several Harris County staff also viewed the work in progress after a safety meeting and while wearing appropriate safety gear.

December 31, 2015: Following EPA's approval of the repair plan, the PRPs completed work to lay an 8-ounce non-woven geotextile fabric over the damaged area (**Picture #3**) and cover it with a 1-foot minimum thickness layer of type C rock (8-inches median diameter) – **Picture #4**. Manual probing was done to confirm that the minimum rock thickness was achieved, and additional rock was added as needed.

January 4, 2016: The PRPs performed a bathymetric survey of the repaired area.

Elected Official/Community/Media Visit:

On December 23, 2015, the site gate was visited by Congressman Green, Harris County Attorney Ryan, other Harris County staff, members of the local community, and reporters from several television stations and newspapers. Congressman Green, Harris County Attorney Ryan, and several community members were interviewed by the media. EPA staff took Congressman

Green and several others to view and discuss the work in progress by car. No other site visits occurred.

Anticipated future actions:

- Prepare/mailout followup community fact sheet to inform the public on site events.
- Develop enhanced inspection plan – damaged area was essentially level with surrounding area and any similar area is not likely to be found by the bathymetric survey currently being done.
- Develop and implement addition cap protection from barge strikes - cause of damage is unknown, but is consistent with a barge/boat strike.

PICTURE #1: *Delineated damaged area. PVC pipes mark areas where cap was damaged.*

PICTURE #2: *First sample in damaged area; approximately 70 to 80 percent aggregate and live shell. Remainder soft sediments with organic smell.*

PICTURE #3: *Placing Geotextile over damaged area.*

PICTURE #4: *Placing Type C rock on top of geotextile layer in damaged area.*